

## Andrew Jackson to Willie Blount, July 10, 1812, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO WILLIE BLOUNT.

Nashville, July 10, 1812

*Dear Sir:* I wrote you of the 8th instant, advising you that a consultation was to be held on the 9th. having in view the period of time that a movement should be made against the Creeks on the event Mrs. Crawly was not surrendered. On reference to your letters, and the dates thereof we find that if the nation is disposed to give her up with the murderers that we will be advised thro you of that event certainly by the 25th. or 30th. of this present month, therefore have an eye to the 10th of august next, the whole present agreed that it was right and proper to be prepared at the moment the Creek nation made the act their own by a refusal to release the captive to carry fire and Sword into the heart of the creek nation, for this purpose my order of this day is Issued, and in the mean time to provide if Possible a sufficient supply of provisions, and munitions of war for the campaign. *men I have; but money I have none* . If my own credit is suff[i]cient for the object, I am safe, and revenge certain, but the supply of an army competent to destroy the Creek nation, (say four thousand) is a serious undertaking for the private purse of a single individual, But I had a hope that sufficient funds could be obtained on loan from the Bank. This I am certain could be obtaind, by application from the State Legislature if the members of East T[ennessee] feels, for the horrid murder as we feel on the west.

Were the Legislature in Session, they would, procure supplies, and countenance the expedition, for I am confident that the goverment of the united States would sanction the proceeding—and in fact I do believe were the[y] not entirely absorbed in the invasion

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of canady—the Secratary of war would have authorised you to have held your militia in readiness to have marched, at the moment you were advised, that the application made for the surrender was refused. but from the tenor of his letter, I do infer that the agent is to make the demand, communicate the answer to the President, and then you are to receive orders. If this is the specimen of the energy and dispatch of our war ministers at the commencement of their operations such *energy* I fear will not bring the war to a *speedy close* , the eyes of the circumjacent indians are on us, and if we are dilitory in our punishment of the creeks we will have captives in their nations to demand, and many murders of our frontier citizens to deplore.

we have confidence in your energy and wishes for satisfaction if you had the power. Will it not be then, expedient to convene the Legislature of Tennessee early in august next, that they may take the subject up, and grant you by law such powers as are necessary to obtain compleat satisfaction from the creeks and a restoration of Mrs. Crawly. was the Legislature to convene the first week in august, a sufficient force could be in the Creek nation by the 25th, if the Legislature took up the subject on their first deliberations. This I submit to your consideration at the request of a number of those gentlemen I have consulted. We all know with the direction and support of the goverment, how much more pleasant the campaign would go on than without it, we know also, that an army well furnished and supplied is much more certain of success, than one badly supplied. but we are determined, with such supplies as we can obtain, by our individual exertion to make the attempt to restore Mrs, Crawly to liberty, and avenge the death of our butchered wives and infants.

When we make the case of Mrs. Manly and her family and Mrs Crawly our own<sup>1</sup> —when we figure to ourselves our beloved wives and little prattling infants, butchered, mangled, murdered, and torn to pieces, by savage bloodhounds, and wallowing in their gore, you can Judge of our feelings. What feelings can a goverment have, who can hear the recital, and await the slow progress of dispatches thro the channel of a mail to an indian agent,

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instead of making use of the power and the means to enforce speedy vengeance on the perpetrators of these horrid scenes and

<sup>1</sup> See Mrs. Crowley's deposition, pp. 225–226, note.

that too at the time the[y] have declared war against great britain, and in part for exciting these very indians to commit these shocking and barbarous outrages. the know we are ready and pant for vengeance. why not give you orders; intrust the thing to your prudence and management instead of this tardy and circuitous rout. These were your citizens and is a citizen of the united States, to remain under the barbarous lash of cruel and unrelenting Savages; confined to a mortar, naked, lacerated and compelled, thus to prepare food for her tormentors for six months without any other notice of the general government, than mere directions for a demand to be made by the agent. The scene is to disgusting, and the thing too disgracefull for a goverment that bosts of liberty and of rights we have a hope, that the legislature will be shortly convened, that the brave sons of Tennessee, may under the authority of the state by their prowess and heroism wipe from the national charector, this blushing shame.

accept the assurance of my respect and Esteem.